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January 27, 2005

Event: *University Chapel Hour and Special Events* presents the seventh annual “A Festival of Spirituals,” in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Date: Feb. 2 (Wednesday)

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington

Admission: Free and open to the public

Background: In conjunction with Black History Month, Illinois Wesleyan University will honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in “A Festival of Spirituals,” coordinated by Associate Professor of Voice Carren Moham.

IWU students and faculty members will perform spirituals such as “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands,” “Standin’ in the Need of Prayer,” and “Little David Play on Your Harp.” Popular and classical songs will also be featured on this year’s program including “If It’s Magic,” by Stevie Wonder,” “Minstrel Man” and “I Got Plenty of Nothin’” from the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

Moham holds degrees from Northeastern State University (B.A.), the University of Oklahoma (M.M.), and Ohio State University (Doctor of Musical Arts).

Moham’s doctoral research centered on vocal pedagogy and black music studies, subjects she continues to research at Illinois Wesleyan. She has demonstrated her expertise in African-American music in her concerts, lectures, and master classes throughout the United States.

Before joining the music faculty at IWU, Moham spent years as a full-time performer. She made her professional singing debut with the Cimarron Circuit Opera in Norman, Okla., her European debut with the Breman Piccolo Opera. Her achievements include a multitude of performances with opera companies and orchestras such as Opera Francais and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Moham has received awards at several prominent vocal competitions including the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition, the Metropolitan Opera Auditions and the Leotyne Price Vocal Competition.

In 2002, she released her debut CD entitled *Sonnets on Love Rosebuds & Death*, a collection of

songs by African American women.

Contact: For additional information, contact the Illinois Wesleyan Chaplain's office at (309) 556-3005.